

REMARKS

Claims 1-24 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 3, 5-8 and 10-14 are amended to even further distinguish over the applied references. Support for the amendments to these claims can be found, for example, on page 11, line 19 to page 12, line 1, on page 12, lines 16-19, and on page 15, lines 16-23 of the specification. No new matter is added. Reconsideration of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-24 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Miyatake et al. (Miyatake), U.S. Patent No. 6,750,903, in view of Shimizu, U.S. Patent No. 7,064,780. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

The combination of Miyatake and Shimizu does not disclose, and would not have rendered obvious, an electronic camera having a controller that records a composite image arranged in a matrix form on a recording medium, as recited in independent claims 1, 3 and 5-7 or the corresponding method of independent claims 10-14.

The Office Action acknowledges that Miyatake does not disclose that the controller arranges the data of the predetermined number of frame images extracted by the controller in a matrix form having a row and column and according to shooting order. Therefore, Miyatake also does not disclose recording a composite image arranged in a matrix form on a recording medium. The Office Action cites Shimizu as allegedly overcoming the deficiencies of Miyatake. Shimizu discloses an image recording apparatus having an image pickup element 12 and a monitor 42 (see col. 3, lines 62-65). Shimizu discloses that after a still image is captured in a continuous still image pickup mode, a video signal processing circuit 14 extracts image data of one frame and outputs the extracted image data to a frame memory 16 (see col. 4, lines 43-49). The single frame image data is then compressed and stored in a track memory 22 at a predetermined address for each frame (see col. 4, lines 50-55). Shimizu

discloses that to realize a multi-picture display, the pixel data of one frame is filtered to reduce the image in size and the processed image data is stored in a multi-picture frame member 44 at an address representative of a display location (see col. 4, lines 56-63).

Shimizu discloses that the process is repeated nine times and that the images can be outputted to the monitor 42 (see Fig. 2). However, recording image data of a single frame at an address representative of a display location does not correspond to recording a composite image in a matrix form on a recording medium. Because Shimizu does not record a composite image in matrix form on a recording medium, Shimizu does not overcome the deficiencies of Miyatake. Therefore, the combination of Miyatake and Shimizu does not disclose, and would not have rendered obvious, an electronic camera having a controller that records a composite image arranged in a matrix form on a recording medium, as recited in independent claims 1, 3 and 5-7 or the corresponding method if independent claims 10-14.

Further, the combination of Miyatake and Shimizu does not disclose, and would not have rendered obvious, an electronic camera having a controller that changes an extracting rate according to a predetermined number and a number of images generated by the image pickup, and extracts the data of the predetermined number of frame images from the data of the plurality of frame images according to the changed extracting rate, as recited in independent claim 1 and similarly recited in independent method claim 10.

Miyatake discloses that images can be taken in at a frequency of about 30 times per second and discloses that higher rates of image capture can be accomplished (see col. 4, lines 44-46 and lines 62-67). However, Miyatake does not disclose changing an extraction rate based on a predetermined number (of extracted frame images) and the number of total images captured. Shimizu fails to overcome the deficiencies of Miyatake. Therefore, independent claims 1 and 10 are patentable over the combination of Miyatake and Shimizu for at least this additional reason.

Furthermore, the combination of Miyatake and Shimizu does not disclose, and would not have rendered obvious, an electronic camera having a controller that selects the data of at least a predetermined number of frame images from the data of a plurality of frame images according to the predetermined number and a number of frame images generated by an image pickup, as recited in independent claim 5 and similarly recited in independent method claim 12.

Miyatake discloses performing continuous shooting while changing the zoom rate to obtain a super high resolution image (see col. 1, lines 5-9 and col. 2, lines 39-43). Miyatake discloses that by changing the zoom rate during continuous photography, a plurality of images are obtained which are then stored as consecutive images with each image having a potentially different frame zoom rate (see col. 4, lines 44-47). Miyatake discloses that a super high resolution image is composed by overwriting each expanded or contracted image on the previous image (see col. 4, lines 58-61). Miyatake does not disclose selecting a predetermined number of images from the plurality of images according to a prescribed condition. Shimizu fails to overcome the deficiencies of Miyatake. As discussed above, Shimizu teaches displaying nine images on a monitor that were selected from a plurality of images. However, Shimizu does not disclose that the image data of the selected images is selected according to the number of images displayed on the display and the number of images captured in the continuous shooting mode. Therefore, independent claims 5 and 12 are patentable over the combination of Miyatake and Shimizu for at least this additional reason.

Additionally, for the same reasons discussed above with respect to claims 5 and 12, the combination of Miyatake and Shimizu does not disclose, and would not have rendered obvious, an electronic camera having a controller that extracts the data of a predetermined number of frame images from the data of a plurality of frame images in a multi-shooting

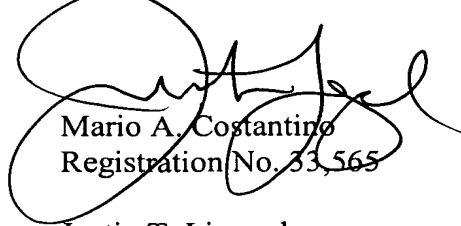
mode at such intervals that an Nth frame image data to be extracted is generated by shooting at a time of an Xth power of $(N-1)$ where X is more than zero when a first frame image data to be extracted is assumed to be generated by shooting at a time zero, as recited in independent claim 6 and similarly recited in independent method claim 13. Therefore, independent claims 6 and 13 are patentable over the combination of Miyatake and Shimizu for at least this additional reason.

Therefore, independent claims 1, 3, 5-7 and 10-14, and dependent claims 2, 4, 8, 9 and 15-24 are patentable over the combination of Miyatake and Shimizu. Thus, it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:

Request for Continued Examination
Petition for Extension of Time

Date: January 8, 2009

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